

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18, and 22, and 24-29 are currently pending. Claims 1-17, and 19-21 have been previously cancelled without prejudice. Claim 23 is now cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18 and 22-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,381,059 (Douglas).

Claim 18 is amended to include "a first p-channel transistor and a second p-channel transistor, wherein a drain of the first p-channel transistor is coupled to a source of the second p-channel transistor".

Although Examiner has indicated that Douglas teaches "two stacked p-channel transistors (55, 56)", Assignee respectfully submits that Douglas at Figure 4, 55, 56, does not teach "a first p-channel transistor and a second p-channel transistor, wherein a drain of the first p-channel transistor is coupled to a source of the second p-channel transistor". Accordingly, Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection to claim 18, as well as to dependent claims 22, 24, and 25.

Examiner has rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Douglas. Claim 26 is directed to "An HCI stress circuit coupled to both an output circuit and an IO pad, the HCI stress circuit consisting of two stacked p-channel transistor devices, said two stacked p-channel transistor devices adapted to limit a duration of a high voltage across the output circuit thereby reducing hot carrier injection stress across the output circuit." Examiner indicated that "With respect to claim 26, the function is inherent in the stress circuit of Douglas."

It appears as though Examiner is relying on the rejection of claim 23 to reject claim 26. In so doing, it appears as though Examiner has overlooked certain limitations of claim 26, for example "An HCI stress circuit coupled to both an output circuit and an IO pad, the HCI stress circuit consisting of two stacked p-channel transistor devices ..." (Emphasis Added). Assignee respectfully submits that Douglas does not teach, at Figure 4, or elsewhere, "the HCI stress

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circuit consisting of two stacked p-channel transistor devices". Accordingly, Assignee respectfully traverse the rejection to claim 26, and requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 26, as well as dependent claims 27-29.

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CONCLUSION

Assignee respectfully submits that each of the pending claims are allowable, placing the application in a condition for allowance. Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issuance.

Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



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